

are when it comes to this health care reform effort. A survey was done recently, and the question was asked, Do you support an individual mandate, which is the requirement that people purchase insurance coverage? In answer to that, there was some ambivalence. People weren't so sure. Then they asked the question this way, they said, What if we give you a public option, would you support an individual mandate? And a clear majority said, Absolutely, we would.

Now let's think about that for a minute. What they were saying was, Don't force us to go purchase insurance coverage if we have to buy it from the same old cast of characters that's been jerking us around for decades. But if you give us a real option, then it absolutely makes common sense to require that.

So once again Americans have demonstrated they understand this problem. They understand why we need to have a public option in the mix, and that's what we're going to push forward with in this legislation.

FIX GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE BEFORE ENACTING ANY NEW REFORMS

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as we discuss the issue of health care, one thing that's brought up often is, Why not let the government run health care? After all, we already have Medicaid, Medicaid, TRICARE and the VA.

Here is a true story: a gentleman in his eighties needs a motorized wheelchair, so he gets a medical exam. A few dozen pages of paperwork are filled out, and 3 or 4 months go by, waiting for the wheelchair to arrive. Unfortunately, during that time, the medical exam expired after 60 days and has to be repeated. Again, more billing, a couple dozen pages of that, and he gets his \$25,000 wheelchair. Unfortunately, by that time, he is in hospice care and can barely use it. And here is the other tragedy: it goes into storage. It can't be used. It cannot be returned, and it's a big waste of money in many ways.

It's not atypical for issues with Medicare and Medicaid. They, quite frankly, will pay for this sort of expense but will not pay for the care it takes to prevent these sorts of problems. Before we take on more health care and \$1 trillion more spending, shouldn't we fix those things we are already responsible for? I think that would save a lot of money, make a lot of sense, and save a lot of lives.

WE NEED HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday in my office in Memphis, I had citizens

come visit me. Two parents had children with spina bifida. They explained the love they had for their child, but the expenses it is causing them because our system of Medicaid is not sufficient in Tennessee to really give them the benefits they need, and how much it costs them.

Another person came to my office to tell me that I had saved her life. Well, I hadn't saved her life, but she would have been cut off of TennCare, our Medicaid system. And but for 10 days when we got them back on, she wouldn't have got the transplant that did save her life.

Do we need health care in America? I think those stories and stories like them say we do. I was gratified last night doing a teletown hall meeting in my district where 83 percent of the respondents said they supported President Obama's health care plan. The Ninth Congressional District of Tennessee gets it. I hope America gets it.

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MASSIVE MEDICARE CUTS IN THE BAUCUS HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, Senator BAUCUS's health care bill is out, and the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has reported it has 15 major surprises in it. Massive cuts to Medicare.

You can see here that the bill cuts \$133 billion out of Medicare Advantage, forcing 3 million seniors out of their choices; \$128 billion is going to be cut for Medicare for hospitals; home health is cut, part D; skilled nursing is cut; hospice is cut; medical imaging, wheelchairs are cut.

So we now see how this is so-called paid for, on the back of senior health care.

I urge seniors to read this Baucus bill and learn about its massive Medicare cuts.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2647, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 808 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 808

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, to provide special pays and allowances to cer-

tain members of the Armed Forces, expand concurrent receipt of military retirement and VA disability benefits to disabled military retirees, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the conference report to its adoption without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate; and (2) one motion to recommit if applicable.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the rule provides for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule provides that the previous question shall be considered as ordered without any intervening motion except 1 hour of debate and, if applicable, one motion to recommit.

The bill was introduced on June 2, 2009, by Chairman IKE SKELTON and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. The committee marked up the bill on June 16, 2009, and ordered it favorably reported, as amended, by voice vote June 16, 2009.

The Committee on Rules reported a structured rule making in order 69 amendments, which then passed the floor 222-202. And today we have the conference report that we have now concurred with the Senate.

Despite any differences about our ongoing missions in Afghanistan or Iraq, we all agree that funds that have already been approved as part of the annual spending plans should not be held up for any reason, not with our troops in harm's way.

The bill authorizes \$550.2 billion in budget authority for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy and also authorizes \$130 billion for overseas contingency operations for fiscal year 2010.

For our service men and women, it authorizes a pay raise of 3.4 percent for the military, expands TRICARE health coverage for Reserve members, bars fee increases on TRICARE inpatient care